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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the actual cost of construction is less than the estimated cost. The estimated cost was Rs. 31,000 while the cost of construction was Rs. 27,204–10–0."

Pest attack on paddy crops in Tirunelveli district.

* 572 *Q.*—SRI S. T. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether paddy crops have been attacked by insects in various places of Tirunelveli district;

(*b*) the extent of damage; and

(*c*) measures taken by the Government for combating the attack and for relieving the distress of the agriculturists affected?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Director of Agriculture has reported that practically the entire crop has been saved.

" (*c*) As soon as the Government came to know of the pest attack, the Director of Agriculture was asked to instruct the District Agricultural Officer to take necessary action in the matter. The Government understand that necessary steps have been taken by the District Agricultural Officer to arrest the pest attack. The District Agricultural Officer with the special staff visited the affected areas and distributed pesticides to the ryots. The latter were also educated in the use of pesticides by means of leaflets. The departmental staff will continue the pest control work as long as it is necessary."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" Sir, as there was not enough stock of the pesticides during the affected period, will the Government take care to see that sufficient stocks are always kept in store? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, as I have said, Tirunelveli is a district where this pest attack has been effectively controlled. During the first few days of the attack there was not sufficient stock but it had been augmented. The Agricultural departments got the vans of the Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts also, took them to Tirunelveli and all possible steps were taken."

SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" பூச்சி விழுந்ததன் காரணமாக விளைச்சல் குறைவாகக்கண்டது. இதன் நிமித்தமாக வாரம் கட்டுக் குத்தகை கொடுக்கக்கூடிய விவசாயிகளுக்கும் நிலச்சுவான்தார்களுக்கும் தகராறு எற்பட்டிருப்பது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா ? சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்தார்கள் ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that the crops had not been damaged considerably on account of this pest attack. Regarding the troubles that arose between the tenants and the landlords, the question may be addressed to the concerned Minister."

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SRI V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" Sir, may I know whether the pesticides purchased hitherto by the Government are from foreign countries or manufactured in India? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I would like to have notice."

Supply of electricity to Chowghat, Ponnani taluk.

* 573 *Q.*—SRI N. GOPALA MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal for the supply of electricity to Chowghat, in Ponnani taluk?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A proposal for extension of supply of electricity to Chowghat, Guruvayoor and other villages in Ponnani taluk, Malabar district, is under examination in the Electricity department."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, will the Government negotiate with the Travancore-Cochin Government for extending electricity to Chowghat and other neighbouring areas from that State because it will be easier and cheaper to do so than to extend electricity from Tirur? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, the matter is under consideration and when I finally take steps I will consider the question of making a representation to the Travancore-Cochin Government."

Sale of seeds and manure by the Government Seed Depot, Mount Road, Madras.

* 574 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of seeds and manure purchased by the Department of Agriculture for sale in the City branch at Mount Road in the year 1952;

(*b*) the total amounts of sales in the year 1952 ;

(*c*) the annual establishment charges of the above branch; and

(*d*) why the prices of seeds, seedlings and manure are higher than those of similar articles sold by the private nurseries in Madras?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The information required by the Member is as follows :—

	LB.
(1) Seeds	2,029
(2) Manures	9,992
(3) Insecticides	2,107